

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber stripper system, comprising:

- A. a handheld housing having a chamber configured to hold a volume of pressurized combustible gas, wherein the gas is releasable from the chamber via a gas release valve;
- B. a gas path having a first end configured to receive released gas from the gas valve and a second end configured to couple to an output nozzle configured to direct energy a burst of heated gas toward at least one fiber;
- C. an igniter configured to combust the released gas at said output nozzle; and
- D. a filter disposed between the output nozzle and the at least one fiber and configured to allow the burst of heated gas to propagate ~~radiate heat~~ in the direction of the fiber, while preventing a combustion flame from contacting the at least one fiber

wherein said burst of heated gas is of sufficient temperature and flow rate to remove the coating from the optical fiber without leaving residue of the coating on the fiber.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

- E. a bridge coupled to the housing and configured to maintain the at least one fiber at a fixed distance from the filter.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

- E. an actuator operatively coupled to the gas valve and the igniter.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the gas comprises at least one of butane, or propane, or some combination thereof.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the filter is a metal wire mesh.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

E. a cleaver configured to cut the fiber.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

E. an air source configured to generate an air burst in the direction of the fiber to the filter.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the heat is at least about 700 degrees Celsius.

9. (Currently Amended) A fiber stripper system, comprising:

- A. a handheld ~~mechanical~~ stripper configured to strip a fiber with a burst of hot gas;
- B. a cleaver, coupled to the ~~mechanical~~ handheld stripper; and
- C. at least one actuator operatively coupled to the ~~mechanical~~ handheld stripper and to the cleaver.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

- D. a fluid pump configured to direct a said burst of hot fluid ~~to~~ at the fiber.